

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to recite the priority claim from corresponding International Application No. PCT/US99/20046 filed August 31, 1999, which claims the benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/098,993 filed September 1, 1998. No new matter is added. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If any minor matters remain to be discussed prior to examination, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Marked-up Version of Amended Specification
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)**

In the specification:

On page 1, line 5, please delete the following paragraph:

[This case claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/098,993, filed September 1, 1998, the contents of which are incorporated by reference.]

Please add the following new paragraph therefor:

This application is a § 371 U.S. national stage of PCT US99/20046 filed August 31, 1999, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2), which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 60/098,993 filed September 1, 1998, which is incorporated herein by reference.